

Message Text

SECRET

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMUT, SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

1. THINKING DOWN THE ROAD, THERE IS ONE OPTION TO BE USED ONLY AS LAST RESORT WHICH WOULD, I BELIEVE, EVOKE FULL COOPERATION OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND GOZ. THIS IS, OF COURSE, JOINTLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED MILITARY RESCUE MISSION. PROBLEMS WITH USING US FORCES IN CENTRAL AFRICA, BOTH LOGISTICAL AND POLITICALLY AT HOME, ARE, OF COURSE ENORMOUS, BUT I URGE THAT CAREFUL CONTINGENCY THOUGHT BE GIVEN TO THIS POSSIBILITY AND A VARIANT WHICH COULD INVOLVE EXPERT PARAMILITARY "MERCENARY FORCE."

2. THIS RECOMMENDATION IS MADE ON ASSUMPTION THAT EXACT LOCATION OF CAMP CAN BE DETERMINED BY RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHY IN LIGHT OF ACCOUNT OF BARBARA SMUTS AND PHOTOS WHICH REPORTEDLY ARE AVAILABLE. OBVIOUSLY,

UNLESS EXACT LOCATION OF CAMP IS KNOWN OR CAN BE DETERMINED, SUCH AN OPERATION WOULD BE TOTALLY IMPRACTICAL SINCE SURPRISE WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS. SUCCESS FOR US IS SAFE RELEASE OF STUDENTS; FOR MOBUTU IT WOULD BE ELIMINATION OF KABILA GROUP.
HINTON

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